

# Oakland's apartheid protest

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By Harry Harris  
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Longshoremen who have refused to unload South African goods from a cargo ship because of that country's apartheid policy demonstrated in front of their employer's Oakland headquarters yesterday.

The more than 100 longshoremen and their supporters also were joined by Rep. Charles Hayes, D-Ill., who was arrested Monday at a demonstration at the South African Embassy in Washington, D.C.

Protesters at yesterday's demonstration chanted slogans while carrying signs and banners outside the Pacific Maritime Association offices at 180 West Grand Ave.

An arbitration session yesterday between the PMA, which represents the shipping line, and Local 10 of the International Longshoremen's and Warehousemen's Union ended in the afternoon without any resolution concerning the refusal of some workers to unload cargo from South Africa.

Leo Robinson, a member of ILWU Local 10, is one of nearly 200 longshoremen who have refused to unload steel, auto safety glass and other products manufactured in South Africa from the cargo ship Nedlloyd Kimberly. The ship has been docked at

Pier 80 in San Francisco since Saturday.

Robinson said the longshoremen's actions are in protest of the deaths and detentions occurring almost daily in South Africa, whose government is becoming "more oppressive every day."

He said the policy of apartheid in South Africa should be brought to the attention of the entire world. To not protest

against it, Robinson said, would be like "not saying anything about the 6 million Jews killed in the Holocaust."

The current protest has not been authorized by the ILWU International. But Robinson said the situation "has gone beyond labor-management relations. It's about human relations."

Rep. Hayes, who was in Oakland taking part in a congressional hearing about small busi-

nesses, said he fully supported the protesters.

He said such protests not only focus worldwide attention on the problem, which he called "atrocious," but also "arouse the consciousness of our own federal leaders."

"I think our government can certainly use a more even hand in the distribution of the rights of human beings around the world."

# Unionists set goal of 'apartheid-free' West Coast ports

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By Marilyn E. Bailey  
*The Tribune*

SAN FRANCISCO — The journey of an institutional-size can of pears tells more about the workings of apartheid than a thousand words, Miloanne Hecathorn told a group of more than 100 West Coast trade unionists here yesterday.

Hecathorn, co-chair of the Oakland-based African Resource Center, said pears and other commodities under American labels, are produced and canned by black South Africans at "slave wages." The canned goods then surface, she said, in bulk many thousands of miles later in American restaurants, nursing homes, universities and prisons.

"You won't necessarily see these labels on supermarket shelves. In fact, a prisoner was the first to inform us of such products," Hecathorn said.

Unionists from Seattle to Los Angeles met yesterday at the International Longshoremen's and Warehousemen's Union hall here. They traded political strategies in an effort to make West Coast ports "apartheid free."

Because of such practices as the importing of South African goods for large institutions, longshoremen and representatives of 50 other unions, from teachers, postal workers, machinists, carpenters, plumbers, to iron workers, joined with the Bay Area Free South Africa Movement, vowing to demonstrate against all ships carrying South African cargo to and from ports along the West Coast.

This ongoing practice, which helps support the economy of the racist, white minority-ruled South African government, must be stopped, said Hecathorn.

"Americans simply cannot participate in the slave labor of other countries," said Mel Martin of the Berkeley Federation of Teachers.

A long list of South African products such as liquor, cartons of dried flowers, steel plating and automobile windshields, to crates of pumps are reaching American shores, said David Bacon, head of the Bay Area Free South Africa Movement's labor committee and a member of Oakland's Molders Union Local 164.

And, said Leo Robinson, a Local 10 longshoreman, the products cost hundreds of thousands of American jobs.

The consequence of such cargo represents the closing of plants, including the steel and automotive industries, throughout America, said Robinson, active with the Coalition of Black Trade Unionists and an international official of the ILWU.

But the system of apartheid is more than an economic travesty, he said. "It is a crime against humanity."

Robinson said South African president Pieter W. Botha's speech last week, which provided little hope for significant reforms in the apartheid policy, makes it clear what "Americans of conscious must do."

It was the longshoremen's union, led by Robinson, that precipitated a renewed Bay Area outcry against apartheid last November. Longshoremen staged a 10-day work stoppage, refusing to unload South African cargo in San Francisco.

Robinson, chairman of Local 10's Southern Africa Liberation Support Committee, said the local voted Thursday night to contribute at least \$2,000 each year,

indefinitely, to the African National Congress of South Africa to help support the group's liberation struggle.

Botha dismissed the escalating cry of black South Africans and millions of supporters around the world to dismantle the government's official policy of oppression and racial segregation.

Solly Simelane, a member of the African National Congress, the prominent liberation organization in South Africa, told unionists yesterday the ANC's armed struggle will be "intensified" until the country is totally liberated.

"It is our country and we cannot be fed like dogs from a table," said Simelane, an exiled black South African living in New York.

Black South Africans make up more than 80 percent of the estimated 30 million people in the country yet white residents own 87 percent of the land and monopolize political power by law (black South Africans cannot vote).

Nearly 200 people have died in South Africa since Botha declared a state of emergency in 36 areas of the country on July 21, giving wide powers of arrest and detention to security forces. The ANC office in New York received information Friday, Simelane said, that Botha has approved the execution of ANC member Benjamin Moloise. Moloise, who has been on death row for more than two years for his anti-apartheid work, is scheduled to be hanged on Wednesday, "in the face of worldwide protests and appeals," Simelane said.

The independent South African Institute of Race Relations said last week that the death toll in the past 11 months of violence now is well past 600.

Said Maryamu Eltayeb, an unemployed teacher and co-chair of the Seattle Coalition Against Apartheid who drove from Seattle for the conference:

"We will not in any manner or form uphold apartheid — economically, morally or otherwise."